



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

WSDA seeks comments on changes made in Fruit and Vegetable Program

OLYMPIA – Two public hearings are scheduled to formalize temporary reductions in the fees the state Department of Agriculture (WSDA) charges for fruit and vegetable inspections as well as the restructuring of the program from three districts to two districts.

The first hearing will take place at 11 a.m. Sept. 24 at the Yakima Agriculture Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 21 N 1st Ave., Yakima. The second hearing will take place at 11 a.m. Sept. 25 at the WSU Tree Fruit Research Center, 100 N Western Ave. in Wenatchee. The deadline for comments is 5 p.m. Sept. 25

The fee reductions and program restructuring took effect on July 1 as a result of legislation passed earlier this year. The program restructuring divided the state into two districts – one headquartered in Yakima and the other in Wenatchee. Temporary fee reductions are in place in most areas of the state.

Fruit and vegetable inspection fees are reduced by 9.5 percent for one year for businesses that were previously in the Moses Lake District, which was eliminated by the restructuring. Fees are reduced by 12.5 percent for approximately one year for inspections performed in the Yakima District.

These hearings are part of the process to implement the recent legislative changes.

For a copy of the rules, contact the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560, call Jim Quigley, manager of the program at (360) 902-1833, or e-mail your request to jquigley@agr.wa.gov.

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